

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 10, 2019

Robert R. Redfield, MD
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear Director Redfield:

We write to express our concerns regarding recent measles outbreaks across the United States. We are alarmed by the frequency and magnitude of these incidents and urge the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to work with states and localities to both address existing outbreaks and mitigate the risk of future outbreaks.

As you know, measles is extremely contagious and can be dangerous. Approximately one-in-four people who get measles are hospitalized.¹ According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, prior to the availability of the measles vaccine, “every year an average of 450 people died from measles; most of them were healthy children.”²

Given the dangers posed by measles, especially for young children, we are extremely troubled by the number of cases that have already been reported this year. Within the first three months of 2019, the CDC has recorded more measles cases than all of 2015, 2016, 2017 or 2018.³ Between January 1 and March 28, 15 states confirmed 387 individual measles cases and six “outbreaks” have been reported to the CDC.^{4,5} Per the CDC, “the majority of people who got measles were unvaccinated.”⁶

As Members of Congress, our top priority is the wellbeing of the people we represent. We are committed to protecting our constituents and ending the threat posed by this preventable illness. To that end, we respectfully request responses to the following questions.

1. How has the CDC assisted states and localities – namely, those experiencing outbreaks – in their responses to recent measles cases?
2. What is the CDC currently doing to prevent additional measles outbreaks?

¹ [“Measles: It Isn’t Just a Little Rash Infographic.” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\).](#)

² [“How to Protect Your Children During a Measles Outbreak.” American Academy of Pediatrics.](#)

³ [“Measles Cases and Outbreaks.” CDC.](#)

⁴ See 3.

⁵ Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.


⁶ See 3.


3. How is the CDC working with health care providers to prevent individual cases of measles?
4. According to the CDC, upticks in measles case counts could be attributed to "an increase in the number of travelers who get measles abroad and bring it into the U.S., and/or further spread of measles in U.S. communities with pockets of unvaccinated people."⁷ What is the CDC doing to enhance awareness of measles among travelers?
5. How is the CDC working to improve vaccine coverage throughout the U.S.?
6. What is the CDC doing to address misconceptions regarding the combination measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) vaccine?

We thank you for your prompt attention to this matter and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

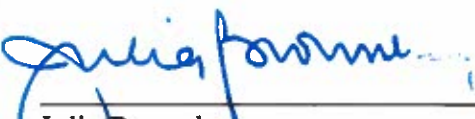

 Andy Levin
 Member of Congress



 Carolyn B. Maloney
 Member of Congress



 Elissa Slotkin
 Member of Congress

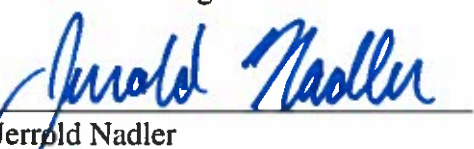

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⁷ See 3.



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